

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
FEBRUARY 23, 2001**

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, February 23, 2001, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Paul B. Johnson Tower of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Brenda Collins, Sara Fox, Joanna Heidel, Veldore Heidelberg, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, Jimmy Murphy, George Walker, and Lawrence Warren.

Member absent: Yvonne Brown.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Olon Ray, Becky Cade, Dr. Larry Day, Deborah Gilbert, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Denise Walley, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Frankie Walton White.

Guests in attendance: Clarence Lovelady, State Department of Education; and Dr. Bill Smith, Institutions of Higher Learning.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

PRELIMINARIES

Joanna Heidel gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of January 26, 2001, Board Meeting

Brenda Collins advised that the walk-through tour of the Thames Conference Center, etc., took place at the December meeting. On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approved the revised minutes of the January 26, 2001, meeting.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Sara Fox requested adding the Virtual Auditing Application, under Other Business of the financial report. On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Olon Ray reported that the staff is working on a multi-year plan with the State Department of Education and the Institutions of Higher Learning, creating a common recommendations to the Legislature regarding the current financial situation.

Dr. Ray informed members that he planned to bring them recommendations pertaining to off-campus funding issues. Members were reminded that the Board voted in June, 1998, to declare a moratorium on considering applications for further changes in academic center status to allow the staff to re-examine SBCJC criterion and standards.

Dr. Ray mentioned that later in the meeting Mrs. Fox would be discussing an expenditure for developmental software, which will aid in our transition toward electronic audits.

On February 26 – 27, 2001, the University of Southern Mississippi hosted the *Creating Futures Through Technology Conference*, a collaborative effort between the Institutions of Higher Learning and the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges. The annual event brought together approximately 300 university and community college representatives, who share a common interest and knowledge of technology.

Dr. Ray related that the Board's Flower fund is almost depleted; therefore, the members were asked to contribute \$20.00 each at their earliest convenience.

REPORTS/ACTION

Status Report on Lawsuit

Dr. Ray gave a brief update on the lawsuit, and advised that IHL attorneys have filed a brief, which the Board will have 30 days to respond, unless an extension is requested. Dr. Ray announced that payments to our attorneys are current, thanks in part, to statewide business contributors.

EdNet Report

Dr. Evelyn Webb advised that there has not been a regular EdNet meeting since the Board last met; however, the regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2001, at 1:30 p.m. As of February 1, 2001, Mr. Martin Mangold is now the new President of EdNet.

Dr. Webb related that all of the agencies that make up EdNet (Mississippi Education Television, State Department of Education, Institutions of Higher Learning, and the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges) have been involved in an informational campaign to inform our national and state legislative delegations and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of the need to leave the Instructional Television Fixed Services (ITFS) spectrum with the education communities rather than selling it to large telecommunication companies (such as, AT & T Corporation, Verizon Communications, Bell South Corporation, and SBC Communications). These companies are lobbying the FCC for more space to use for what they call "3G" or next generation technology needs.

Dr. Webb asked that the Board approve a draft copy of a resolution (Attachment 1), showing the Board's support of the Mississippi EdNet Institute. On a motion by Jimmy Murphy, and a second by Brenda Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed resolution.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the March 2001 General Fund Disbursement from Fund 2298 in the amount of \$5,866,328 (Attachment 2).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the February 28, 2001, Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement from Fund 4080 and Fund 4100 in the total amount of \$2,276,847 (Attachment 3).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Z-1 Budget revisions, as follows:

- A. Support
 - Revision #1 – 5% GF Cut of \$7,234,461
 - Revision #2 – H.B. 400 Cuts of \$5,255,177
 - Revision #3 - 1¢ EEF Cuts of \$1,609,120
- B. Administration
 - Revision #1 – Major Object Transfer \$47,627
 - Revision #2 – H.B. 400 Cuts of \$2,113,498
 - Increase for Interest Earned of \$186,096

Mrs. Fox stated that no action was required, but information was provided on: FY 2002 Legislative Budget Recommendation with Fall 2000 Enrollment (Attachments 4a – 4c); Financial Statements – Funds 2291, 3291, and 4300 (Attachment s 5a – 5c); Land, Buildings, Improvements, Furniture, Machinery and Equipment as of June 30, 1999 (Attachment 6); Bond Indebtedness (Attachments 7a – 7c); Faculty and Staff Positions by Full-Time and Part-Time FTE, Budgeted FY 2001 (Attachment 8); Amount of Cuts if EEF Cuts were Spread over all Budgets (Attachment 9a); and House vs. Senate Versions of S.B. 3100 and S.B. 3101 (Attachment 9b).

Under other business, Mrs. Fox requested that the Board approve an expenditure in the amount of \$85,000 to g.c.r. & associates, inc., for a Virtual Auditing Application (Attachment 10). This is to be added to the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) Contract that was approved at an earlier date. On a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the expenditure pending authorization from ITS.

Workforce Education

George Walker reported on items discussed at the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2001. Mr. Walker has appointed two members to head committees: Joe Jones for Public Information and Charles Holder for Legislative. Mr. Walker provided samples of their efforts, as well as other newspaper articles relating to the Workforce Program (Attachment 11).

Mr. Walker presented a copy of a resolution that has been sent to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor by the Chamber of Commerce/Industrial Foundation of Coahoma County, MS, showing their support for Workforce and the Community and Junior Colleges (Attachment 12). Copies have been sent to other Chambers of Commerce and Industrial Foundations, asking that they show their support by issuing similar resolutions.

Mr. Walker mentioned that the Excellence in Mississippi Conference, providing Quality Awards, will be held April 4-6, 2001.

Henry Hudspeth complemented Mr. Walker on his efforts toward public and legislative awareness regarding workforce issues.

Legislative Report

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher distributed an updated list of proposed legislation that would affect the SBCJC and community and junior colleges. Dr. Stonecypher briefly discussed each bill with the Board.

GED Report

Eloise Richardson reported that forty high schools in Mississippi have been asked to allow their seniors to assist in standardizing the new GED test by testing the seniors this March, April and May. GED is trying to get word out that all parts of the test must be completed before January 2002, as scores will not be transferred after the first of the year.

Mrs. Richardson showed the Board a card that has been provided by the Dollar General Stores, which is helping to spread the word to people about GED Testing and Adult Education Classes. She is hoping to get Dollar General to offer a similar card notifying the public of the new GED test, which will become active next year.

Mrs. Richardson invited the Board to the Adult Basic Education Summer Conference, which will be held at the Vicksburg Convention Center on June 13 – 15, 2001. The main focus of the Conference will be in three areas: (1) The New GED Test, (2) English as a Second Language, and (3) Learning Disabilities.

Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement of travel expenses for the following:

Brenda Collins for attending the Legislative Luncheon on February 8, 2001, in Jackson.

Henry Hudspeth for attending the Legislative Luncheon on February 8 in Jackson, a meeting with the Presidents and the Workforce Council in Jackson on February 14, and the Dick Livingston Ground Breaking Ceremony at East Central in Decatur on February 13, 2001.

Joanna Heidelberg for attending the Legislative Luncheon on February 8, 2001, in Jackson.

John Junkin for attending the Legislative Luncheon on February 8, 2001, in Jackson.

George Walker for attending a meeting in Tupelo with the newspaper on January 30, DeSoto County on February 9 with the DeSoto County Times newspaper, February 13 with Clarion Ledger Editorial Board, and Workforce Training meeting on February 14.

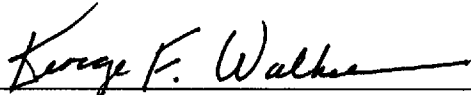
OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, Chairman Walker stated that in his traveling around the state, he has heard a lot of concern from businesses, parents, as well as students, regarding tuition increases and layoffs at the colleges. Although tuition increases may be necessary due to the current budget situation, he wanted the Board to be aware of the apprehension and how it may affect the perception of community and junior colleges.

Mr. Walker stated that the Presidents, as well as several Board members, attended a meeting on the afternoon of February 14. Future legislative strategies were discussed at the meeting. Mr. Walker stated that he believed the meeting went well, and appreciated the attendance of the Board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by John Junkin, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.


George Walker, Chairman


Olon E. Ray, Executive Director